

# Portfolio Commentary

## Small Cap Growth

# Q3 | 2019

### MARKET REVIEW

U.S. growth stocks experienced a volatile quarter, set off by mounting signs of late-cycle global economic deceleration and an escalation in the U.S.-China trade conflict. In this risk-off environment, the large-cap segment broadly delivered positive, if more subdued, returns, significantly outperforming the general market losses of their small-cap peers. Small-cap growth stocks fell 4.17%, as measured by the Russell 2000® Growth Index, with the largest declines in the energy (-20.41%), communication services (-10.73%), and healthcare (-9.80%) sectors. Only the utilities (+9.21%), consumer staples (+3.63%), and real estate (+2.92%) sectors delivered positive returns

There continued to be indications that global economic growth is slowing on a fundamental basis. Manufacturing declined into recession, business confidence fell further, and U.S. gross domestic product forecasts were generally revised down. Still, not all the news was dire. Employment and wages remained solid, and consumers kept spending. The uncertain climate sparked an abrupt market rotation near quarter-end that saw many of the strongest year-to-date performers hit hardest and prior laggards suddenly outperforming.

### PERFORMANCE

For the quarter, the Silvant Small Cap Growth Strategy Composite returned -4.15% (gross)/-4.39% (net) compared to the Russell 2000 Growth Index, which returned -4.17%. Stock selection within the information technology and healthcare sectors and an underweight position in real estate detracted the most from returns. Stock selection within the industrials, consumer discretionary, and consumer staples sectors added the most to performance.

Insulet Corporation and Roku were the strongest stock contributors to relative performance.

- Medical device company Insulet Corporation benefited from revenue strength and accelerating sales of its Omnipod tubeless pump system, which makes it easier for people with diabetes to manage their insulin levels. The firm is also developing innovative, continuous glucose-monitoring systems. We maintained our position based on an upbeat outlook and expectations for increased adoption among both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes patients.
- Streaming-video company Roku posted another strong quarter. The firm reported higher-than-expected revenue and impressive gains across key metrics such as new accounts, total hours streamed, and average revenue per user. We continued to hold the stock given the company's strong fundamentals and attractive growth potential, though we slightly trimmed the position.

### PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS

	Portfolio	Benchmark
Wtd. Avg. Market Cap (\$b)	4.52	2.46
Price-to-Earnings*	29.81	20.86
Price-to-Book	4.81	3.83
Price-to-Sales	3.55	1.68
Std. Dev. (3 yr) (%)	16.90	17.20
Alpha (3 yr) (%)	2.41	0.00
Beta (3 yr)	0.95	1.00
Std. Dev. (5 yr) (%)	16.33	16.77
Alpha (5 yr) (%)	1.50	0.00
Beta (5 yr)	0.94	1.00
Est. 3-5 Yr EPS Growth (%)	19.48	16.94
Operating Margin (%)	8.77	7.93

\*P/E is calculated using forward 12-month earnings.

### TOP

#### CONTRIBUTORS<sup>1,2</sup>

	Average Weight	Relative Attribution
Insulet Corp.	2.04	0.73
Roku, Inc. Class A	2.44	0.55
Teledyne Technologies Inc.	2.78	0.55
Mercury Systems, Inc.	2.76	0.39
Alder Biopharmaceuticals, Inc.	0.61	0.38
Chemed Corp.	2.25	0.38
Saia, Inc.	0.94	0.33
Interxion Holding N.V.	2.78	0.31
Q2 Holdings, Inc.	3.89	0.22
Cable One, Inc.	1.75	0.18

### TOP

#### DETRACTORS<sup>1,2</sup>

	Average Weight	Relative Attribution
Sarepta Therapeutics, Inc.	1.79	-1.06
Merit Medical Systems, Inc.	1.06	-0.53
ICU Medical, Inc.	0.66	-0.48
GW Pharmaceuticals PLC Sponsored ADR	1.02	-0.35
Everbridge, Inc.	1.33	-0.31
ProPetro Holding Corp.	0.45	-0.29
ShotSpotter, Inc.	0.51	-0.28
Planet Fitness, Inc. Class A	1.62	-0.27
Workiva, Inc. Class A	1.22	-0.26
Quaker Chemical Corp.	1.48	-0.25

Relative attribution: excess return relative to the benchmark, limited to stocks held in the portfolio.

### TOP 10 HOLDINGS<sup>1</sup> (% of portfolio)

Q2 Holdings, Inc.	3.92
Teledyne Technologies Inc.	3.17
Interxion Holding N.V.	3.08
Fair Isaac Corp.	2.82
Insulet Corp.	2.54
Chemed Corp.	2.43
Mercury Systems, Inc.	2.32
Balchem Corp.	2.02
ViaSat, Inc.	1.90
Encompass Health Corp.	1.90

Source: FactSet. All data as of 9/30/2019.

<sup>1</sup> See Holdings Disclosure on page 3.

<sup>2</sup> The contributors/detractors listed do not represent all securities purchased or sold for our clients. To obtain a list showing the contribution of each holding that contributed to overall performance during the quarter and the calculation methodology, please call 404-845-7640.

Sarepta Therapeutics and Merit Medical Systems were the largest stock detractors from relative performance.

- Medical research and drug development company Sarepta Therapeutics was negatively surprised by news that the FDA declined to approve its newest treatment for Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD). In addition, the company recently added patients to an ongoing gene therapy trial, which will delay those results. Despite these setbacks, we continued to hold the stock, as we still like their products and pipeline. Also, the firm plans to meet with the FDA and refile its DMD therapy application.
- Disposable medical device manufacturer Merit Medical Systems reported disappointing earnings and revenue. While sales growth for the quarter remained solid, margins contracted and there was a shift to older legacy products. We maintained our position but are closely monitoring the stock.

## PORTFOLIO CHANGES

We added positions in Invitae and Natera to the portfolio during the quarter. We exited our positions in Home BancShares and Cadence Bancorporation.

- We purchased genetic testing companies Invitae Corporation and Natera. Both firms reported strong quarters, with higher test volumes and higher average selling prices. They also both have interesting new product pipelines.
- We sold Home BancShares and Cadence. Both banks reported soft earnings, and with the shift to more accommodative monetary policy putting pressure on net interest margins, we decided to reduce the portfolio's bank exposure. Cadence is also experiencing some credit deterioration in its loan portfolio.

## PERFORMANCE ATTRIBUTION (%) AS OF 9/30/2019

	Quarter-end Sector Weights		Impact		
	Portfolio	Benchmark	Sector Weight	Stock Selection	Total
Communication Services	1.87	2.46	0.03	0.19	0.22
Consumer Discretionary	12.68	12.33	0.00	0.40	0.41
Consumer Staples	3.19	3.47	-0.02	0.24	0.22
Energy	0.78	0.68	-0.05	-0.19	-0.24
Financials	6.52	5.93	0.01	0.16	0.17
Healthcare	26.47	27.49	0.08	-0.33	-0.25
Industrials	20.17	19.64	0.01	0.55	0.57
Information Technology	23.10	18.14	0.06	-0.71	-0.65
Materials	5.23	3.19	-0.10	-0.15	-0.25
Real Estate	0.00	4.89	-0.32	0.00	-0.32
Utilities	0.00	1.79	-0.20	0.00	-0.20
<b>Total</b>			<b>-0.50</b>	<b>0.16</b>	<b>-0.32</b>

Source: FactSet.

Performance attribution does not incorporate the effects of cash, unclassified securities or expenses and may change at any time without notice. The total impact may not equal the difference between Portfolio and Benchmark returns.

## OUTLOOK

Looking ahead, we believe growth stocks have the potential to continue to generate attractive returns, particularly on a relative basis compared to other investment options. Earnings have broadly become slightly more muted, a trend we expect to continue, along with likely lower revenues and more earnings management across the next few quarters. In our view, growth stocks can still deliver as long as consumers continue to spend and borrow, which they have for now. However, at this late stage of the market cycle, we remain highly cognizant of potential cracks that could weigh on investor sentiment and keep volatility high for the foreseeable future. Trade tensions have accelerated the global growth slowdown, corporate capital expenditures remain on pause, and extreme political uncertainty continues to be the norm. Amid these persistent market overhangs, we remain focused on fundamentals as we seek to identify and invest in growth businesses that are best positioned to navigate the current uncertain climate.

## PERFORMANCE COMPARISON (%) AS OF 9/30/2019

	QTD	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year
Small Cap Growth Composite (Gross)	-4.15	26.39	2.12	12.67	10.15	12.65
Small Cap Growth Composite (Net)	-4.39	25.47	1.10	11.56	9.07	11.65
Russell 2000® Growth Index	-4.17	15.34	-9.63	9.79	9.08	12.25
eVestment Alliance Small Cap Growth Median*	-4.35	19.03	-6.22	13.41	11.12	14.00
# of Portfolios in Median Calculation	181	181	181	175	167	151

eVestment Alliance data capture date: 10/22/19

**Past performance is not indicative of future results.** This presentation is solely for SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION purposes, intended for institutional investor, and may not be provided unless accompanied or preceded by the fully compliant GIPS Composite Presentation. The comparative performance contained herein reflects annualized returns for specific time period, is not indicative of actual annual returns, and may not be relied upon for investment decisions. Complete information regarding Silvant's returns is included on the GIPS presentation on page 4. The performance inception date for the composite is 1/1/2001.

Russell 2000® Growth Index is composed of the securities found in the Russell 2000® Index with a greater-than-average growth orientation. Companies in this index tend to exhibit higher price-to-book and price-to-earnings ratios. Investors cannot invest directly in an index.

Frank Russell Company is the source and owner of the trademarks, service marks and copyrights related to the Russell Indexes. Russell® is a trademark of Frank Russell Company.

This information and general market-related projections are based on information available at the time, are subject to change without notice, are for informational purposes only, are not intended as individual or specific advice, may not represent the opinions of the entire firm, and may not be relied upon for individual investing purposes. Information provided is general and educational in nature, provided as general guidance on the subject covered, and is not intended to be authoritative. All information contained herein is believed to be correct, but accuracy cannot be guaranteed. This information may coincide or conflict with activities of the portfolio managers. It is not intended to be, and should not be construed as investment, legal, estate planning, or tax advice. Silvant Capital Management does not provide legal, estate planning, or tax advice. Investors are advised to consult with their investment professional about their specific financial needs and goals before making any investment decisions. Portfolio characteristics, sector analysis, and holdings exclude cash and may change at any time.

\*eVestment Alliance (eA) is a manager-reported database on hundreds of investment managers and thousands of investment products covering a full range of asset classes, investment styles, and geographic concentrations. Based on manager input, eA independently constructs universes using qualitative and quantitative factors. The investment products are organized into peer groups and assessed on an ongoing basis to ensure the consistency of a product's attributes within a designated style classification. In addition, eA utilizes style analysis tools, performance analytics, and the review of a product's investment strategy narrative in the construction of wide-ranging universes that are both pure in style and consistent over time.

The eVestment Number of Portfolios represents the number of investment products included in the calculation of the median return for the given eVestment universe for the given time period. Individual investment managers may have more than one investment product included in the universe, so the number of observations will likely be greater than the actual number of investment managers represented.

## HOLDINGS DISCLOSURE

The information provided in this report should not be considered a recommendation to purchase or sell any particular security. There is no assurance that any securities discussed herein will remain in an account's portfolio at the time you receive this report or that securities sold have not been repurchased. The securities discussed do not represent an account's entire portfolio and in the aggregate may represent only a small percentage of an account's portfolio holdings.

It should not be assumed that any of the securities transactions or holdings discussed were or will prove to be profitable, or that the investment recommendations or decisions we make in the future will be profitable or will equal the investment performance of the securities discussed herein.

## IMPORTANT RISK CONSIDERATIONS

**Equity Securities:** The market price of equity securities may be adversely affected by financial market, industry, or issuer-specific events. Focus on a particular style or on small or medium-sized companies may enhance that risk. **Growth Stocks:** Growth stocks are typically sensitive to market movements because their market prices tend to reflect future expectations. When it appears those expectations will not be met, the prices of growth stocks typically fall.

For information, contact:

Silvant Capital Management | 404-845-7640 | [www.silvantcapital.com](http://www.silvantcapital.com)

# Q3 | 2019 Small Cap Growth

SMALL CAP GROWTH COMPOSITE 1/1/01 – 9/30/2019

Year	Gross of Fee Return (%)	Net of Fee Return (%)	Benchmark Return (%)	Number of Portfolios	Composite Dispersion (%)	3-Year Standard Deviation		Total Composite Assets at End of Period (US\$ Mil)	Total Firm Assets (US\$ Mil)
						Composite	Benchmark		
2019 YTD	26.39	25.47	15.34	Five or fewer	N/A	17.19	17.23	28	775
2018	-5.55	-6.49	-9.31	Five or fewer	N/A	15.53	16.46	24	748
2017	15.88	14.74	22.17	Five or fewer	N/A	13.54	14.59	30	1,138
2016	10.60	9.50	11.32	Five or fewer	N/A	15.92	16.67	45	1,277
2015	-2.30	-3.27	-1.38	Five or fewer	N/A	14.62	14.95	70	1,382
2014	-3.35	-4.32	5.60	Five or fewer	N/A	14.00	13.82	246	1,736
2013	46.31	44.90	43.30	Five or fewer	N/A	17.18	17.27	301	2,233
2012	16.16	15.02	14.59	Five or fewer	N/A	21.34	20.72	353	3,002
2011	1.05	0.04	-2.91	Five or fewer	N/A	23.39	24.31	427	3,686
2010	25.34	24.14	29.09	6	0.32	26.35	27.70	537	4,093
2009	33.63	32.63	34.47	7	0.42	23.03	24.85	493	3,818

Silvant Capital Management LLC claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®) and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS standards. Silvant has been independently verified for the period March 31, 2008 through December 31, 2018. A copy of the verification report is available upon request. Verification assesses whether (1) the firm has complied with all the composite construction requirements of the GIPS standards on a firm-wide basis and (2) the firm's policies and procedures are designed to calculate and present performance in compliance with GIPS standards. Verification does not ensure the accuracy of any specific composite presentation.

- Silvant Capital Management LLC ("Silvant") is an SEC-registered investment adviser and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Virtus Partners, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Virtus Investment Partners, Inc. ("Virtus"). Registration of an investment adviser does not imply any level of skill or training. Silvant manages assets on behalf of institutional and retail separate accounts and mutual funds. Silvant became an affiliate of Virtus effective June 1, 2017, when Virtus acquired RidgeWorth Capital Management LLC and RidgeWorth Investments ("RidgeWorth"). Silvant was created March 31, 2008, when all of the investment decision-makers associated with the growth equity investment strategies of RidgeWorth became employees of Silvant. The staff and decision making process remained intact and independent within Silvant. For composite reporting purposes, the Firm is defined as all equity portfolios managed by Silvant. Composite performance results are linked to performance history generated at RidgeWorth.
- The Small Cap Growth Strategy composite includes fully discretionary separately managed investment accounts and registered and unregistered mutual funds managed in accordance with the small cap growth style, with the objective of investing in in stocks with a competitive advantage, strong profitability metrics, above average free cash flow, above average operating margins and positive price trends. Under normal circumstances, Small Cap Growth Portfolios will have at least 80% of their assets invested in common stocks and other U.S. traded equity securities of small cap companies. U.S. traded equity securities may include American Depository Receipts ("ADR's"). Silvant considers small cap companies to be companies with market capitalizations similar to those of companies in the Russell 2000® Growth Index. Silvant will seek out securities it believes have strong business fundamentals, such as revenue growth, improving cash flows, increasing margins and positive earnings trends. Prior to September 1, 2015, the gross of fee return for the mutual fund was calculated by adding back the fund's published total operating expense ratio to the net of fee mutual fund performance; we now use the gross of fee return of the underlying portfolio. A complete description of the composite is available on request.
- The benchmark for the Small Cap Growth Strategy composite is the Russell 2000® Growth Index, which is composed of the securities found in the Russell 2000® Index with a greater-than-average growth orientation. Companies in this index tend to exhibit higher price-to-book and price-to-earnings ratios. The index is calculated on a total-return basis with dividends reinvested. Index returns do not reflect the deduction of any fees or expenses.
- The three-year annualized standard deviations for the composite and the benchmark index are calculated using monthly returns.
- Beginning March 31, 2008, composite policy required the temporary removal of any portfolio incurring a client initiated significant cash inflow or outflow of 10% or greater of portfolio assets. This policy was discontinued effective January 1, 2013.
- The dispersion of annual returns is measured by the equal-weighted standard deviation of portfolio returns represented within the composite for the full year. Partial year dispersion is measured by the equal-weighted standard deviation of portfolio returns represented in the composite for the partial year period specified. No dispersion is reported for periods with five or fewer portfolios (shown as N/A).
- Returns are calculated based on total return which (a) includes cash returns, realized and unrealized gains plus income; (b) utilizes trade date and accrual accounting; and (c) is after the deduction of actual trading fees and expenses. Portfolio returns are calculated utilizing daily valuation. Composite returns, calculated monthly, are the weighted average return of the underlying portfolios using beginning-of-period market values. Composite gross of fee returns do not reflect any deduction for investment advisory fees, custodial charges or other costs that a client might incur in connection with the management of an account. Composite net of fee performance is calculated assuming a fee of 1.00%, the highest fee for this type of investment account.
- The standard management fee schedule applicable to small cap growth equity accounts is as follows: 1.00% on the first \$10 million, 0.80% on the next \$40 million, and 0.60% on all over \$50 million. The minimum annual fee is \$10,000. Actual investment advisory fees incurred by clients may vary.
- This composite was created March 31, 2008, the inception date of Silvant, and continues the investment strategy of a composite originally created in 2001. The composite has performance history with an inception date of January 1, 2001.
- The minimum portfolio size for the Small Cap Growth Strategy composite is \$1 million. For further information on investment management fees, please refer to Form ADV Part 2.
- Policies for valuing portfolios, calculating performance, and preparing compliant presentations are available upon request.
- A complete list and description of firm composites and performance results is available upon request.
- Past performance is not indicative of future results and no investment is guaranteed for return of principal and/or return on investments. Results will vary among accounts. All information provided and used in calculations is believed to be correct, but accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Please consult with a financial professional before investing.